

Royal fever ripples through Australia; Paris' underground skeleton caves; Aussies bow out in T20; and de-extincting the Tassie Tiger.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Bryce Corbett -

It's Monday, October 21...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Royal fever ripples through Australia; Paris' underground skeleton caves; Aussies bow out in T20; and de-extincting the Tassie Tiger.

That's what's making news, kid's style...

THE LOWDOWN

Royal fever has taken hold of Australia as a King and Queen from a faraway land walked the streets of Sydney yesterday and prepare to visit the nation's capital today.

Crowds of enthusiastic crown lovers turned out on a sunny Sydney day yesterday to see King Charles III and his wife, Queen Camilla who are on a brief visit to Australia - which is part of something called the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is a group of 56 countries, scattered about the world, which were once under British rule. And while they all now run their own race as nations, they've all kept ties with Great Britain - and some, like Australia, even have the King and Queen of England as their head of state. Which is why King Charles III head is on the back of our coins. You know what coins, are right? It's the money your parents very rarely sometimes use when they're not using their phone or credit card.

Yesterday - Charles and Camilla attended a church service, before visiting NSW State Parliament and then meeting with their rep here on the ground, the Governor General, Sam Mostyn.

Today, they'll be in Canberra at the War Memorial and then at a meeting with the Prime Minister. How boring must it be to be a royal? Tomorrow they get to kick up their heels a little bit at a big meet-and-greet with the Aussie public at the Sydney Opera House. If you're going - don't forget to bow and curtsy. It's royal etiquette, innit?

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops. And today we've landed in Paris, in France, in an underground tunnel system filled with skeletons.

Eughhh!

They're called the catacombs - and if you've ever been lucky enough to visit Paris, you may have visited them - they're one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. The bones of some 6 million people are believed to be down there - and for the first time ever, scientists are studying the bones to paint a picture of what sort of lives they led and what sort of diseases finally finished them off.

(CCC) Aha - it's the Classroom Companion Clarion .. letting us know that Christie, our fully-qualified primary school teacher, has prepared an excellent, Halloween-themed worksheet tied to this story - exploring similes and metaphors. Her worksheet also touches on the next story in the pod - encouraging class discussion about bringing extinct animals back to life ...

WEIRD SCIENCE

Did someone say bringing extinct animals back to life? Because that's what a team of scientists are doing with the Tasmanian Tiger .. trying to 'de-extinct' it. Which is apparently a word.

The Tassie Tiger scientists are expected to announce later this week that they have almost completely re-built the genome for the marsupial - whose scientific name is thylacine and which used to roam the forest of Tasmania until it was hunted to extinction back in the 1930s.

While some scientists are saying it cannot be done, the team behind the research are confidently predicting they'll have tiger cubs within the next ten years.

Did someone say Jurassic Park?

SPORT TIME

Look ... there were times, back in the day, when my soccer team would lose - again - and my dad would say: this is probably a loss you needed to have. Except it wasn't really - because we used to lose all the time. But the point was: sometimes if you're really good at something, it's occasionally good to lose, so that you are motivated to keep trying to be the best.

That was the spin that was being put on the Aussie Women's T20 cricket team's shock loss to South Africa in their semi-final this weekend.

The Aussies were going for their fourth straight T20 World Cup victory - a title that will instead go to either South Africa or New Zealand this morning.

Never mind Aussies .. we're still super proud of you. And you can use this defeat now to spur you on to greater heights.

MID ROLL - Newshounds Promo

It's Media Literacy Week! Which is perfect timing - because we've just given Newshounds a complete and utter overhaul and are launching Newshounds 2.0 this week.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you'd know that Newshounds is Squiz Kids' very own free media literacy classroom resource for primary school kids - teaching them how to spot misinformation and fake news when they come across it online.

Since its launch just over 18 months ago - more than 3,500 teachers around Australia have signed up to do it with their classrooms.

Which is why we've spent the last six months giving Newshounds an overhaul. A new user interface, a new virtual game board for Squiz-E and new content on AI-generated content. All conceived with the help of our teacher brains-trust.

So don't just sit there - jump onto the new Squiz Kids website squizkids.com.au and get involved already! Because: we owe kids the truth ...

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. Who did Australia lose to in the women's T20 World Cup semi-final on the weekend?
2. What's the scientific name of the Tasmanian Tiger?
3. The bones of approximately how many ancient Parisians are thought to be buried beneath the city in tunnels called les catacombs?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, October 21 ... International Day of the Nacho ... mmm ... nachos ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Caleb from Ivanhoe Larissa from Ashmont, Elissa from Gordon, Vilisoni from Middleton Grange, Sophie from Bentleigh, Ellie from Oakleigh, Miller and Zac from Fletcher, Hezekiah from Cannon Hill, Henry from Castle Hill, Benji from Yass, Soham from Forest Lake, Lachlan from Wyee and John from Red Head.

Belated shoutouts... Anaisha from Blackburn South, Sarah from Sydney, Elle from Glenelg North, Thomas from Bicton and Mohammed from Stewarts Mount.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 2G with Mr Hudson at Salisbury Heights Primary School, class 2D with Mr Smith at Thornton Public School, Koala Room with Zoe, Mel, Cindy and Zack at Midson Road Childcare Center in Epping, class 3 Blue with Miss Galvin at St Aidan's Primary School in Rooty Hill and class S3 Laurieton with Miss Wong at Guildford West Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. South Africa
2. Thylacine
3. 6 million

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today -We'll be back again tomorrow with a brand new Squiz Kids Shortcut on the United Nations ... what is it, why it is and what it does ... and remember it comes complete with excellent classroom worksheets - so don't just sit there ... get involved !

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.